

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004 LB 1065

yields will keep increasing with the technology and with our efficient use of water. So it's possible that if we don't do what you do, it could fully fund the four plants, but we all know there's going to be more plants. We're going to have to come back next year. So that's kind of where I see this playing out.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. I, too, rise in opposition. Yeah, we've had this balance of at least some General Fund or gas tax through the years to be a partner with the farmers who have contributed the majority of the money for ethanol incentive programs in the state. I want to keep that. We've diminished the general support in amendments on this bill already. We've already stepped up on the agricultural side. By extending this, that would increase it that much more. This will have to be solved next year, I agree with that. But if we would solve it the way we should solve it, the way LB 1065 at least initially came out here, that we put more General Fund or more gas tax or more LUST Fund tax in instead of extending it on the agricultural side. So I rise in opposition to the amendment.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I support Senator Beutler's amendment. In fact, my only criticism of his amendment is that I don't think it goes quite far enough. I think we ought to seriously examine state funding of the ethanol board in addition to what he's proposing. But his is merely an effort to make this financially sound, it...given at least what we know now. And I don't see how we can be critical of that. It makes no sense to me to say, well, we're going to have to come back anyway and it's probably going to cost us more money so, therefore, let's leave a bigger hole now. I don't understand the logic of that. I think this is something that we are definitely going to need to do, and we might as well do it now. So again, I strongly support the Beutler amendment. Thank you.